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Adm: All

0126773

September 23, 1981

Honorable Alexander M. Haig
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At the meeting which we had in your suite at the United Nations Hotel on July 14, we discussed, among other things, whether the United States was receiving any quid pro quo from Saudi Arabia in connection with the proposed sale of AWACS. At that time, it is my recollection that you stated that, in fact, Saudi Arabia was becoming somewhat more forthcoming and, specifically, that it was beginning to finance projects in Egypt which it had cut off at the time that it broke diplomatic relations with Egypt. Since that time I have traveled in Europe and the Middle East and have raised this question with friends in the Arab and Israeli world. Several knowledgeable persons with whom I spoke were surprised by the assertion that Saudi Arabia had commenced to provide financing for Egyptian projects and stated forcefully that, to the best of their knowledge, no such financing has been initiated by the Saudi Government. While there may be some projects financed by private Saudi businessmen, the best information which I have been able to obtain is that the Saudi Government has continued to keep Egypt cut off from financial assistance or participation.

I would be very grateful if you would advise me whether I understood your remark correctly at our meeting and whether in fact there is evidence that the Saudis have recommenced financial cooperation with Egypt.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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